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21 MWCC Students Named To Who's Who

Dr. Arthur F. Haley, President of Mt. Wachusett Community College, has announced that the following students have been elected to "Who's Who in American Junior Colleges" These students were selected on a basis of academic merit and personal contribution to and participation in college activities.

They are Eugene E. Booth, Ayer; Dorothy A. Bozicas, Fitchburg; Steven R. D'Agostino, Rochdale; Jean E. Dennett, Gardner; Lawrence P. Gendron, Gardner; Mary-Ann Grahm, Wrentham; Jean E. Greenwood, Gardner; Leni Ilinitch, Baldwinville; William J. Jamsa, Westminster; Thomas R. Kolodziejczak, Gardner.

Kathleen A. LaClair, Fitchburg; Eugene J. Laford, Athol; Peter P. Lore, Gardner; Alfred Lussier, Jr., Leominster; Donald H. Progen, Gardner; Michael P. Remillard, Gardner; Robert E. Roy, Leominster; Jon R. Schrader, Fitchburg; Diana L. Snow, Fitchburg; Philip E. Stowell, Gardner; and Donald Tucker, Leominster.

HIGH SCHOOLERS VISIT CAMPUS

Students from Dracut High School and Bromfield High School in Harvard, Massachusetts visited MWCC as guests of the college in March. They were transported in a Van procured for the use of the college through donations and activities of the student body.

Because MWCC has not had an Open House in the past four years, nor does it plan another until the new campus is ready, it was thought that it might be useful to invite high school seniors to visit the college and transport them from their respective high schools, and return, in this modern vehicle during the normal school day.

Several guidance counselors have indicated an enthusiastic reaction to this suggestion so that prospective students might see first hand the facilities, faculty, and student body, thereby getting a much more meaningful insight into the college's opportunities.

Scheduled for April are visits from

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PREP Project is Underway at Ft. Devens

Mr. William Hynes, Director of Fort Deven's Education Center, (left) and Assistant Professor Clement Trudeau, Director of PREP, discuss a new proposal for the program. The pre-discharge education program is now in its second year of operation at the army base. (U.S. Army Photographer)

Mount Wachusett Community College and Fort Devens have organized the first of its kind Army Pre-Discharge Education Program (PREP) in the New England area. The program under the direction of Assistant Professor Clement Trudeau began in April of 1972 with 19 students. One year later there are currently 60 students taking advantage of the program.

To be eligible for the PREP program, the serviceman or woman must have completed 180 days of active service and must hold a high school diploma or its equivalent.

"PREP is particularly helpful" says professor Trudeau, "to career non-comissioned officers, who are encouraged to complete at least 2 years of college study. PREP also serves men and women who will be leaving the service within 6 months. Many of these person are of college caliber, but have never considered a college education. In addition, PREP is geared to the needs of servicemen and women considering vocational training."

"PREP is also designed to help soldiers who require remedial, refresher, deficiency makeup, or other courses preparatory to the pursuit of an educational or training program above the high school level. The overall purpose of this facet of the PREP program is to reach people who have not considered college and to give them the impetus to continue their education."

One of the reasons for the program's success Professor Trudeau believes is that "It stresses individualized instruction rather than the formal teaching approach. The emphasis is on innovative methods to get the students actively involved with their studies. We have been highly selective in our choice of instructors and counselors for the program. Field trips to college campuses and to cultural events are also part of the program."

William P. Hynes, director of the Fort Devens Education Center, under whose close supervision PREP has been established and operates, states that PREP, because it is a new program for the Army, will eventually be expanded to even greater attractiveness and usefulness to the individual soldier.

Initially, PREP was an eight week course featuring pre-college english, math, and reading. Classes met from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, with extensive work done after normal duty hours. Last November the courses were expanded to 12 weeks of instruction in order to expand the PREP curriculum. This cycle was completed February 15, 1973. The current cycle,

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Mike Kressy: Teacher, Farmer, Author

Author Mike Kressy, (left) is shown here discussing his new book "How to Grow Your Own Vegetables," with Assistant Professor Philip Leasure, The book has come off the presses just in time for the spring planting season.

by Richard D. Carreno

(reprinted from the Worcester Telegram)

When he thinks about it, or when someone asks, Michael Kressy calls himself a poet.

While many of his poems lie in folders in the study of his 200-year-old farmhouse, many have been published. Some appeared in obscure literary magazines, he concedes, but some were in a not-so-obscure anthology published last year called "Working From Silence."

Kressy, 35, is more than a poet, however. He's a published songwriter (for the guitar), a playwright (off-off Broadway), and an instructor of creative writing at Mt. Wachusett Community College in Gardner (his current livelihood).

In past years, he's been a reporter for the White Plains (N.Y.) Reporter Dispatch, an assistant editor of News Pix, the employee magazine of the New York Daily News; a one-shot model, a short-story writer and a specialist 4 in the Army.

Kressy is also a farmer, tending 12 chickens and seven acres of vegetables on his farm off Lake Road here.

And next month, when his new book, "How to Grow Your Own Vegetables," is published, the blond, bespectacled Kressy becomes an author.

The book, a beginners guide to vegetable growing, will be published by Meredith Co. of New York and be part of the Creative Home Library Division of Better Homes and Gardens magazine.

His writing the book, like his becoming a poet, was just "a fortuitous thing," Kressy said. When he was younger he had no plans to do either, he said.

"I'm a late bloomer. I didn't write decently until I was near 30 years old," Kressy said.

Kressy grew up in South Salem, N.Y. He landed in the Army after college at Boston University. When he was discharged in 1962, he got a job at the Reporter Dispatch. A year later, he moved to the New York Daily News.

He worked there for two years. Meanwhile he met and married his wife, Jean, who was a home economist in the News' test kitchen.

The editors were looking for someone to demonstrate proper etiquette in eating lobster, he said. He became the model for a photo feature. His wife was handling the assignment.

After leaving the News, Kressy became a short story writer, but had trouble selling his work. "My wife was making my living," he remembers.

In 1966, he was awarded a scholarship to the University of Massachusetts to study creative writing. He began writing plays and had one done off-off broadway, "disastrously for a couple of nights."

Meanwhile, he was beginning to write poems, publish them and read them at places like Worcester State College and Plymouth State College.

"I enjoy that (poetry) more than any other type of writing. I'm predictably strong in nature imagery." His style is free verse, what is now called "open form," he said.

"I like to make it relevant," he said. One poem, he noted, concerns the napalming of a Vietnamese girl and his antiwar reaction to the event.

After UMass, he came here in 1969 and picked up gardening, an avocation also practiced by his father.

"I always wanted an old house. Always was interested in growing things.

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Student Film Makers To Compete For $300 in MWCC Film Festival

The Humanities Division of Mt. Wachusett Community College has announced its third annual student film festival. The festival is unique in that it is the only one of its type in the country, designed primarily for the screening of works by students at two year colleges.

A feature of this year's festival will be the awarding of cash prizes to deserving film makers. To date the Festival Committee has acquired $300.00 to be awarded by the Festival's judges. The three judges, a film maker, a critic, and a film teacher, will be given equal sums of money to dispense to filmmakers in any way the judge sees fit. A judge may award the entire sum to one film, or break up the sum and award it to two or more film makers.

The Festival Committee is still seeking additional funds for prize money. Any contributions received will either go into the general prize fund, or be awarded in a lump sum in a specific category should the donor so designate.

To be eligible for the prize money the film maker must have been a student at a junior or community college during the 1972-1973 academic year. However the festival is open to all films by student and independent film makers.

All films submitted will be screened. Acceptable are films in 16mm, Super 8, and 8mm. Sound tracks may be on the film or separate. Each film must be on a separate reel. All films submitted will be returned promptly after the Festival.

The Festival's screenings will be on Friday, May 11, 1973 commencing at 6:30 p.m. at the Congregational Church Auditorium in Gardner, Mass. Films for the Festival and entry blanks must be in the hands of the Festival Committee by May 7.

Last year's Festival drew 31 films from 14 community and junior colleges in six states. At last year's Festival a first prize was offered and was won by John Kory of Philadelphia Community College for "ABCD", his documentary on preschool children. For entry blanks and complete information about the Festival, contact Gordon Massingham, Film Festival Committee, Mt. Wachusett Community College, Gardner, Massachusetts 01440, or call 617-632-8299.

High School Visits . .

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students of Dracut H.S., St. Bernard's H.S., Fitchburg; Holy Family H.S., Fitchburg; Mescenic H.S., New Ipswich, New Hampshire; Conant H.S., Jaffrey, New Hampshire; and Leominster H.S.

Engineering Project Tests Ingenuity and Bridge Strength

Although the structures may be considered by some to be "pop" art, the bridge building competition has been organized to test the strength of the wooden structure's design, student ingenuity, and their knowledge of construction principles. Dr. Robert Kokernak (second from left) is shown testing the strength of a bridge design with students (from left to right) Dennis Jordan, Samuel Canon, Henri Arsenault, and Dennis Cormier.

Professor Robert Kokernak's sophomore class in "Dimensional Machine Design" and his freshman laboratory section of "Strength of Materials" will soon be competing in a unique contest. "The object of the contest", says Professor Kokernak, "is to see which member of either class can build the strongest model bridge structure from popsicle sticks and wooden dowels. No string, glue, or any type of metal fasteners may be used."

Does this sound out of the ordinary? "Probably", says Dr. Kokernak, "but actually this is a very practical problem which underscores the basic principles of engineering mechanics. The model bridge must span a fixed distance (16 inches) and will support a concentrated load at its midspan. Each student must submit a laboratory report containing a mathematical force analysis of his structure, and predicting the load at which his bridge will fail."

"After all of the reports are in and all of the bridges are built, we will test each structure in the laboratory to see which is the strongest. Popsicle sticks were selected as the model material because they are inexpensive, readily available, and, at first glance, easy to break. Yet when connected together according to good design principles, they will support a surprisingly heavy load."

As an added incentive, Dr. Kokernak has offered a prize to the builder of the strongest bridge. "The winner will receive some type of tool, probably an electric drill or a wrench set. The idea of offering a prize was really an afterthought and is incidental since every student in each class must undertake this project anyway. However, despite the novelty there is a considerable amount of work involved here for the students, and after seeing the enthusiastic response that both classes showed toward the contest, I think they deserve it."

Campus Notes

Four exciting nature films will be featured as the next presentation of the Distinguished Visitors Documentary Film Festival. "The Great Adventure," "Sea Hawk," "A Summer Saga," and "White Mane," will be shown at 7 P.M. on April 26 at the Chestnut Street Methodist Church in Gardner. Admission is free and open to the public.

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The Annual Student-Faculty Scholarship Basketball Game is scheduled for April 13. It will be played at 7:00 at the Gardner High School Gym. Admission is $.99 and proceeds go to the college's scholarship fund.

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From March 23 through April 2 an exhibition of recent works by Barbara Chapman, Ralph Higgins, Sidney Porell, and Carl Santamaria was held at the MWCC Art Gallery located at the Downtown Campus. The four artists are students at the college. From April 4-11, the recent works of Eugene Laford and Martin Vitkauskas are being featured. And the art of Steven Donaldson and Donald Tucker is going to be exibited from April 13-25.

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The Law Enforcement Curriculum's class in criminalistics, consisting of 17 sophomores will be visiting the FBI's criminology labs in Washington, D.C. this month. The FBI labs are among the most modern in the world and this visit will give the students an opportunity to observe actual lab comparisons and identifications. The class has also visited the Boston Police Department and State Police labs this semester.

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Kressy . . .

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Always wanted space," he said.

"I'm crazy about life here. I love teaching at the community college level. I love the county. It's the best of several worlds in a sense," he added.

The book just came about one day, Kressy continued. His wife first proposed writing a cook book. She contacted the publishers and they were interested. But when they learned that her husband was a gardner, they scrapped the cook book and suggested the gardening book instead. Mrs. Kressy wrote a chapter of the new book on how to cook vegetables. Kressy refers to it as "Ma Kressy's Recipes."

"The book is heavily weighted in the organic direction. It gives you natural alternatives to pests without using any chemicals at all. That's one of the unique aspects of it. Other than that, it's a basic book on growing things," he said.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mike's book went to press on February 26 and by the time you read this it should be on sale at most book stores. A phenomenal first printing for a new author of 50,000 books was made. In addition, "How to Grow Your Own Vegetables," has been chosen as a section of the month by the Meredith Corporation's book club.

PREP . . .

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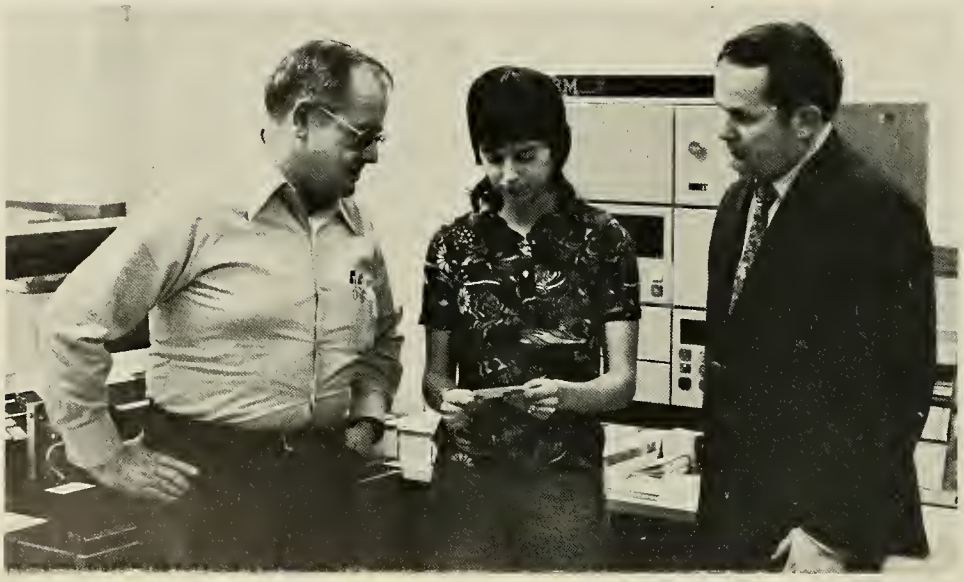
which began Feb. 16, will be completed by May 14.

The classroom and administration space is provided by Fort Devens Army Education Center. The Mount Wachusett Community College staff includes a director, five instructors, a tutor, a counselor, and a secretary.

PREP has received the approval of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education and of the Veterans Administration. The program is funded through the V. A. and does not count against the individual's G. I. educational benefits.

Students Receive On-the-job D.P. Experience



Data Processing Curriculum Coordinator Carl Tammi (right) discusses the performance of interning student Lucy Taylor (center) with her project supervisor Richard Olds, Data Processing Director of S. Bent and Brothers, Gardner. Eleven students are currently gaining experience as junior programmers and operators in this on-the-job training program.

MWCC has initiated an internship in selected curricula offering credit for work experience in a student's chosen occupation. This program is designed to enhance and encourage a student's learning experience.

Assistant Professor Carl Tammi, Coordinator of the Business Division's Data Processing Curriculum and Placement Director Barbara Oatman have been hard at work organizing such a program for data processing students this semester.

The program has been set up so that the students will be employed for 12 hours per week for 15 weeks at various firms throughout the Greater Gardner Community. Upon completion of the course, the students will receive 4 credits on a pass or fail basis.

Mrs. Oatman states that, "We do not expect the students to be reimbursed for this experience, nor do we expect that they will be hired by these firms upon graduation. The only commitment we asked of the companies is that they provided the students with a learning experience and an evaluation of the student's performance."

Professor Tammi, who is in charge of visiting the firms and checking on the student's progress, adds that, "Several students have already been offered full-time employment, and this experience as an operator and junior programmer is proving most beneficial for all of the students and for the companies at which they are working."

Eight full-time students have been placed at the following firms: Wayne Muniz, Digital Equipment of Maynard; John Puliafico and David Rota, Independent Lock Company of Fitchburg; Jerry Ricci, Fitchburg Gas and Electric Company; Cynthia Snow, Thayer Inc. of Gardner; Lucy Taylor, S. Bent of Gardner; and Jeffrey Maxwell, Simonds Saw and Steel, Fitchburg.

Three part-time students who are already employed as programmers and operators are also taking the course. They are David D'Innocenzo and Alice Plante, George Carrington Company, Leominster; and Maurice Lizotte, Simonds Saw and Steel, Fitchburg.

The Distinguished Visitors Committee will present George Tipton and Lorice Stevens of the National Theater Company in 'The Gospel According To . . .' at Gardner High School Auditorium on May 1 at 8:00. The public is invited and admission is free. The show is a potpourri of selections from such musicals as "Hair," "Godspell," "Supervisor," "Purlie," and others. The theme of the production is the search for faith as shown in these contemporary musical plays. Mr. Tipton and Miss Stevens have been touring schools and theaters during the past three seasons with two highly-acclaimed concert programs "Passin' Through" and "Lincoln, Kennedy, and King."

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